

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:DLMACK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 250974 TOSEC 160208

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT ALGIERS 3139 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO MADRID

NOUAKCHOTT RABAT TUNIS USUN NY DTD 21 OCT 5

QUOTE:

S E C R E T ALGIERS 3139

EXDIS

DEPT PASS USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SS, US, TS

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: MEETING WITH TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY

1. DURING A GENERAL CONVERSATION OCTOBER 20 WITH FOREIGN  
MINISTER CHATTY, HE COMMENTED AT SOME LENGTH ON TUNISIAN  
ASSESSMENT OF SPANISH SAHARA SITUATION. THE GIST OF  
HIS ANALYSIS WAS AS FOLLOWS.

2. MAURITANIAN-MOROCCAN AGREEMENT TO PARTITION THE SAHARA  
WAS RESULT OF INITIATIVE BY TUNISIA, WHICH BELIEVED THAT  
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THERE SHOULD NOT BE A NEW, UNVIABLE STATE CREATED IN THE AREA.

DURING BOUTEFELKA VISIT TO RABAT AGREEMENT WAS REACHED THAT ALGERIA WOULD ACCEPT THIS ARRANGEMENT IN RETURN FOR RATIFICATION BY KING HASSAN OF AGREEMENT ON MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN BORDER. HASSAN, HOWEVER, DID NOT CARRY OUT THIS AGREEMENT, AND ALGERIA IS NOW BASING ITS POSITION ON PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION HASSAN'S DECISION TO TAKE HIS CASE TO THE ICJ WAS A TACTICAL ERROR SINCE IT CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT THE ICJ OPINION. ONE DOES NOT GO TO ARBITRATION IF ONE FEELS ONE HAS A LEGITIMATE CLAIM. THE ICJ DECISION, BY GIVING A LITTLE TO EVERYBODY, HAD ONLY COMPLICATED THE SITUATION. MAJORITY OF UN WILL FAVOR REFERENDUM IN SAHARA. SPAIN HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO SUPPORT UN-APPROVED SOLUTION OR TO ASK SECURITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE UN TRUSTEESHIP FOR THE SAHARA. MOROCCO CANNOT ACCEPT A REFERENDUM WHICH WOULD LEAD TO AN INDEPENDENT SAHARA. IF KING HASSAN NOW BACKS DOWN ON MARCH, HE WILL BE IN MORE TROUBLE THAN HE HAS EVER BEEN IN BEFORE. IN CHATTY'S OPINION, SITUATION HAS PROBABLY ALREADY GONE BEYOND THE POINT WHERE A SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND. HASSAN MIGHT POSTPONE HIS MARCH ON THE SAHARA IF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ASKS HIM TO, BUT THIS IS NOW DOUBTFUL. IN BRIEF, CHATTY'S CONCLUSION WAS THAT MATTERS HAVE PROBABLY GONE BEYOND THE POINT OF NO RETURN AND EVENTS WILL NOW TAKE THEIR OWN COURSE. WHILE BASICALLY SYMPATHETIC TO MOROCCAN OBJECTIVES AND SUSPICIOUS OF ALGERIAN MOTIVES, CHATTY BELIEVES KING HASSAN HAS PLAYED HIS CARDS BADLY AND IS NOW IN A SITUATION WHICH LEAVES HIM NO APPARENT OUT. PARKER UNQUOTE  
INGERSOLL

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